

The Groundplane

SBARA—The South Bay Amateur Radio Association
KU6S Newsletter

February, 2012
Volume 12, Issue 2



Presidents Message

Already February! And I had almost no opportunity to indulge in any ham radio activity so far this year, I was busy traveling all the time. Well, some contacts I did have: I visited my old club C33 in Germany and gave them a presentation about fox hunts in the US, and I had a nice contact with Bob KH6AS and his friends, an eyeball QSO actually, while visiting the Island of Kauai the last week of January. Kauai has an amazingly active group of hams, they even regularly administer ham exams. I saw them during their weekly breakfast in Lihue, there were 23 hams participating. Not bad for a place with a population of only about 60,000. If you ever want to visit Kauai, the most northern (and some say, the most beautiful) of the Hawaiian islands, visit www.kauaiarc.org two weeks prior to your arrival and arrange for a meeting – it's worth it.

The SBARA board has not been idle meanwhile. We had two very fruitful sessions recently, one in December last year and another one on January 30th. Here are a number of highlights you want to know about:

- We want to make the club more active and therefore seek **your** help. Helping on the board will not require a lot of your time, and you will be able to influence directly what SBARA does. As an incentive for you to get aboard the board grants a Thank You dinner, which will take place in July, 50% reimbursement to admission fees to events like the Pacificon, and priority access to SBARA loan equipment. You won't be alone, one of the experienced board members will be your mentor. Interested? See me or any other board member, we'd love to see you join the "inner circle". It's nothing to be afraid of.
- What we are looking for are Field Day committee members, interest group leaders (e.g. DXing, contesting, emcomm, satellite communications, micro controllers, antenna construction, digital modes, CW, ...) and people to fill some more positions.
- We are looking to have a Home Brew table at every meeting again. Do you have anything interesting you built recently? Bring it to the meeting! Do you have an interesting project or problem you'd like to discuss during the meeting? Bring it up during the meeting!
- We found a number of speakers for the next couple of months. In February, Umesh K6VUG will tell us about his home brew Arduino controlled driven satellite antenna rotator system. In March we hope to have another talk about micro controllers, this time PICs.

As you probably realized, the theme for the next couple of meetings is fun with micro controllers. Have any micro controller project yourself? Bring it, you could win a prize!

The club will buy study guides for Technician, General and Extra exams. The quarter master will hand them out as loans to interested SBARA members. SBARA will start a weekly net. It will be a directed net, taking place every Monday at 7:30 pm on the 147.015 repeater. We will do check-ins and then discuss club related issues, technical questions and more. This net is in preparation, stay tuned for it.

Finally, a gentle reminder: please don't forget to pay your membership dues. If you do this during the upcoming meeting, you will receive a free raffle ticket.

See you then!

Bernhard AE6YN

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Eimac JAN-CIM-4PR60A 4PR60
Amplifier Tube Circa 1961

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Special points of interest

- Arduino-based Portable Antenna Positioning System
- Chirpy 28Mhz
- CW Net Startup

Arduino-based Portable Antenna Positioning System



[Arduino Micro Controller](#)

Arduino Micro Controller is a versatile system capable of many interesting applications. Its ease of use makes building a light weight portable rotator for satellite antenna an ideal and fun project. It all comes together very nicely with a couple of RC Servo Motors providing accurate Azimuth and Elevation positioning of the antenna, while an Arduino Pro Mini controls the servos in response to commands from a Satellite Tracking program. The short presentation will provide a deeper understanding of the Arduino Microcontroller and all other aspects of this very exciting home-brew project.

Arduino based Portable Antenna Positioning System

We need you input for the next Groundplane!!

- Operating stories
- Station construction
- Operating accessories
- Product reviews
- Interesting contacts

Please consider putting an article together today for the Groundplane!!

Tri-City VE Test Dates

Exams will be administered at Hurricane Electric, 48233 Warm Springs Blvd., Fremont.

Contact: Bernhard, ae6yn at arrl dot net for info. \$15 fee. Walk-ins allowed.

Tri-City VE Session Dates 2012

Tuesday, Feb 14, 6:30 - 9:00 p.m.

Saturday, Mar 10, 9:00 - 11:30 a.m.

Tuesday, Apr 10, 6:30 - 9:00 p.m.

Saturday, May 12, 9:00 - 11:30 a.m.

Tuesday, Jun 14, 6:30 - 9:00 p.m.

Saturday, Jul 14, 9:00 - 11:30 a.m.

Tuesday, Aug 14, 6:30 - 9:00 p.m.

Saturday, Sep 8, 9:00 - 11:30 a.m.

Tuesday, Oct 9, 6:30 - 9:00 p.m.

Saturday, Nov 10, 9:00 - 11:30 a.m.

Tuesday, Dec 11, 6:30 - 9:00 p.m.



Dear Fremont CERTs

Following is the 2012 Fremont Fire Department PEP & CERT Training & Events Calendar. All Training and Events are FREE. Pre-Registration is required. To Register for a specific date, call 510-494-4244 or Email FirePubEd@fremont.gov

Updates to this schedule will be posted to the web at www.FremontCERT.org and to the Fremont Fire Dept. Public Education Information Line at 510-494-4243. Each month the CERT Desk will send out an email reminder of these dates.

For CERT Activation Status in a real event, check the recording on the CERT Hotline at 510-494-4245

2012 Schedule =
Class Times: 7:00 PM - 10:00 PM

Class Location: Fremont Fire Training Tower Facility Classroom, 7200 Stevenson Blvd., Fremont, West of Hwy 880

PEP = Personal Emergency Preparedness Class

Class Information:
March 14, 2012, Wednesday
May 17, 2012, Thursday
July 11, 2012, Wednesday
September 11, 2012, Tuesday
November 8, 2012, Thursday

CERT Training Sessions

6 Consecutive Tuesday Nights, 2012 April 3, 10, 17, 24 and May 1, 8—6 Consecutive Thursday Nights, 2012 August 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 and September 6.

For all new students, PEP Class is now a requirement before taking CERT Training. Already trained veteran Fremont CERTs are welcome to attend any CERT Training classes to refresh their skills; they do not have to take PEP first.

CERT Continuing Education Classes

February 15, 2012, Wednesday, Medical Operations
March 21, 2012, Wednesday, CERT Paper Work
April 18, 2012, Wednesday, FRS Radio Operations
May 5, 2012, Saturday, Container Day, Location and Time To Be Announced Later
May 16, 2012, Wednesday, Topic To Be Determined

May 26, 2012, Saturday, Free First Aid / CPR /

AED Training, 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM, Pre-Registration Required

June 20, 2012, Wednesday, Topic To Be Determined
July 18, 2012, Wednesday, Topic To Be Determined
August 15, 2012, Wednesday, Medical Operations
September 19, 2012, Wednesday, CERT Paper Work

September 22, 2012, Saturday, Free First Aid / CPR / AED Training, 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM, Pre-Registration Required

October 17, 2012, Wednesday, Topic To Be Determined
October 20, 2012, Saturday, CERT City Wide Earthquake Drill
November 14, 2012, Wednesday, Topic To Be Determined

CERTs with Ham Radio Licenses are encouraged to participate in our local Amateur Radio Groups:

Fremont ARES, Amateur Radio Emergency Services, www.FremontARES.org, meets the 3rd Thursday of each month at 1930 HRS Fremont ARES meeting location = Fremont Fire Dept. Admin. Bldg., (City Offices), 3300 Capitol Avenue, Bldg. A, Fremont, CA 94538

SBARA, South Bay Amateur Radio Association, www.sbara.org, meets the 2nd Friday of each month at 1930 HRS. SBARA meeting location = Hurricane Electric Bldg., 760 Mission Court, Fremont, CA 94539

Please email FirePbEd@fremont.gov any changes to your email address or postal address so we can keep in touch with you.

Regards,
Fremont Fire Dept. CERT Desk Volunteer Staff (Lynne, Margot, Barbara, and Mary) End.

Fremont Fire Department
Public Education
Emails and phone calls are returned by volunteers.

You can also call 510-494-4244.



Do1Thing

SBARA has joined the ranks of Social Media. Be sure to check us out on Facebook. SBARAs address is: www.facebook.com/groundplane

Come on up and check us out and help keep the site going strong!



Get Involved with SBARA

...come to a monthly meeting.

Our regular meetings take place the second Friday of the month at Hurricane Electric. Pre-Meeting social dinner begins at 6pm. Then at 7pm our meeting social begins with the monthly meeting starting at 7:30pm. Everyone is welcome to attend, regardless of whether you are a member. Bring a friend! Or if you're thinking about becoming a ham, come and learn about the hobby!

...become a member.

Membership is open to all licensed radio amateurs. The annual membership fee of \$35 help support the upkeep of our repeater, as well as participate in the Annual Field Day, plus other communication events. You can become a

...join a fox hunt.

On the Saturday of the month (around 7pm) organizes a good old fashioned fox hunt. The starting point is in Fremont, Ca. For more information, please contact Don at

...take a VE test.

VE testing is scheduled throughout the year on the second Saturday of the month on even months and on the second Tuesday of the month. Details are in this issue of the Groundplane.

W1AW Live Webinar Event

On Sunday, February 12th at 5 p.m. Eastern time, ARRL and Al Petrunti of The New Day Group will webcast a LIVE tour of W1AW – the ARRL flagship station. Amateurs around the country (and the world) will be able to watch it at <http://www.awecast.tv/channels/arrl/> .

“Hams around the world know of W1AW and thousands have made contacts with this impressive station, but most never get to see it,” said Allen Pitts, W1AGP, who is producing the event. “Thanks to Al Petrunti’s group, we hope that folks enjoy seeing what’s at the other end of the signals.”

You will be there as Petrunti, KA1TCH, local weatherman Geoff Fox, K1GF, and others are given a tour by Station Manager Joe Carcia, NJ1Q. As in all live broadcasts, you never know just what might happen. We invite you to join us. Petrunti, KA1TCH, also created the video about HR-607 for ARRL.

You can learn more about W1AW at www.arrl.org/w1aw and about the New Day Group at www.NewDayHD.com

Time to dust off those Keys....

Slow CW Net

The Slow CW net is taking place every Thursday and Sunday night at 7:30 pm on 144.230 MHz.

The net has now its own e-mail address. Please contact us here:

“SF Bay CW Enthusiasts” <sf-bay-cw-enthusiasts at googlegroups.com>

~... ..
Bernhard AE6YN



Fremont Repeaters & Net Information

WA6PWW— 147.015 +
600Khz, PL 103.5

WA6PWW—223.900—
500Khz, PL 107.2

WA6PWW—442.600 +5Mhz,
PL107.2

K6AIR—146.940—600Khz, PL
123.0

K6AIR—441.525 +5Mhz, PL
123.0

ARES Net Meeting—Tuesday
Evenings @ 7:30pm on
147.015+600Khz, PL 103.5

Are you looking for your favorite Repeater? Here is information you can use!

SBARA Meeting Location—Second Friday

Our meeting location is at:
Hurricane Electric.

The address in Fremont is:

760 Mission Court — Come to the meeting.

Bring your HF transceiver, antenna or HT !

Chirpy' 28 MHz CW Transceiver

Roger G3XBM has released a video of 'Chirpy' the CW transceiver for 28 MHz that uses just 14 components. This ultra-simple transceiver puts out just over 100mW and can hear signals down to around 2uV in a quiet room. Crystal controlled, full QSK and great fun, although the signal does chirp! Hence the name. Best DX so far is IT9QAU/QRP (1414km). Hoping to work some USA stations with it soon. Crystal used must be a fundamental type, not 3rd overtone. Got mine from Golledge, a UK supplier. If you hear a chirpy weak signal on 28.060MHz CW it may be me - be patient and try to work me! The component count could be reduced to 12 if I replaced the tank circuit with a Toko or similar coil/cap with link winding. The circuit diagram of Chirpy is at https://sites.google.com/site/g3xbmqrp/Home/xbm10_2
Watch Chirpy - a 14 part CW transceiver for 28MHz at—



Amateur Radio Repeater



The South Bay Amateur Radio Association., is a general interest amateur radio club serving the Fremont Tri-City area. Records indicate the club has been in existence since at least 1974, and has functioned continuously ever since. We are an ARRL Special Service Club, an California not-for-profit corporation, and a 501(c)(3) tax exempt organization as specified in IRS Statutes. We sponsor training classes for new hams, license examination sessions, and participate in various public service events. If you have a specialized amateur radio interest, chances are you can share it with one or more of our club members.

The South Bay Amateur Radio Association meets on the 2nd Friday of every month at Hurricane Electric in Fremont. The meeting begins at 7:30 PM and includes social time, a business portion and a program of interest.

All persons interested in amateur radio are invited to attend. Families are welcome.

We hope to see you there!

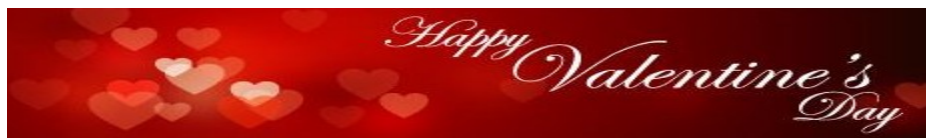
**South Bay Amateur Radio
Association - SBARA**
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Web Site — www.sbara.org
Facebook— www.facebook.com/groundplane

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Greg Miller, W6YP
Program Facilitator
Open Position
Refreshments
Open Position

SBARA - Groundplane

The Groundplane is published monthly by the South Bay Amateur Radio Association. Articles and letters are always welcome. The normal deadline for material is the 20th day of each month for the next month's news-letter. Articles can be sent by email to hamradio at Comcast dot net or via U.S. Mail. Contact the Editor for details and submission guidelines.



Upcoming SBARA Events

February Action Packed Meeting

February 10th, 2012 at 7:30pm Hurricane Electric, Fremont

Amateur Exams

ARRL VEC— February 14th @ 6:30pm at Hurricane Electric – 48233 Warm Springs Blvd. Fremont. **Contact:** Bernhard, ae6yn at arrl dot net for info. \$15 fee.

Additional information is described at Website, www.sbara.org

Select License Exams from the Navigation URL.

South Bay Amateur Radio Association — SBARA

The Ground Plane — KU6S

<http://www.sbara.org>

P.O. Box 8401

Fremont, Ca.

PLEASE
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